

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 4, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. November 4, 1896. My dear Alec:

I do not see why when I am trying to economize in every possible and impossible way you should go and needlessly throw away two words in a telegram. They did not in the least help the meaning, rather the other way because one is accustomed to speak of thirteen hundred and not one thousand three hundred. Nor was it necessary to put in all those initials, they count as words. My telegrams lately have cost enough, there was no need to throw away money.

About Bertha — Elsie will go and see her and also go to the address you give tomorrow, meanwhile I can say Lina has been to see her two or three times and the last Bertha was out on her bicycle so I don't think she can be very ill.

I had a fright this afternoon, they said that it was all a mistake and that Bryan, and not McKinley, was elected. I was at the riding academy taking a bicycle lesson and the news not only took all my spirits out, but made me feel nearly ill. I shan't feel perfectly positively sure until the official count is in.

I went to sleep last night with my gas burning and the next thing I knew Elsie woke me to tell me the latest election news. She said that Charles, coming home from the Avenue at four o'clock, saw my light burning and supposed I was still watching.

Did I tell you that I have had one letter from you since you returned. You spoke of our still green woods. The trees here are nearly leafless but it is very warm, the window in my room is open nearly all the time.

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Aileen says that your father and uncle did not care much which way the election went, but your father would prefer McKinley for many reasons, one of which was that he thought it very undignified of Bryan to go cruising about the country.

Elsie is coming out about December 7th, so you must make your arrangements to be here then. Uncle Sam and Aunt Sophie left today and Mamma is about done for. She says they are very nice and no trouble to entertain except that Uncle Sam is so fearfully particular about his food. The last news from Gardiner are not so encouraging, he is less comfortable with higher fever. Lately he has seemed so much better that we began to hope.

Take care of yourself. Mr. McCurdy says your cold continues.

Ever yours.